

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: SUAREZ TAKES CONFIDENT LINE IN FRENCH MAGAZINE INTERVIEW

1. IN INTERVIEW WITH FRENCH MAGAZINE LE POINT PUBLISHED
MONDAY, HIGHLIGHTED PRECEDING WEEKEND BY SPANISH NEWS AGENCY
EFE AND CARRIED IN SPANISH PRESS TUESDAY, PRIME MINISTER
SUAREZ EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN ARMY'S LOYALTY TO MONARCHY,
CRITICIZED THE POLITICAL CLASS FOR FAILING TO ADAPT TO
NEEDS OF STATE, CALLED THE SPANISH PEOPLE MODERATE,
DECLARED CORTES OPPOSITION TO HIS POLITICAL REFORM WOULD
NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT, AND SAID THE PROBLEM OF CATALONIA,
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THE BASQUE REGION, AND THE CANARY ISLANDS WOULD BE

SOLVED MORE EASILY THAN IS BELIEVED.

2. QUOTES, BY TOPIC:

A. THE ARMY. "THE SPANISH ARMY IS GROUPED AROUND THE KING, IT KNOWS THAT EVERYTHING REVOLVES AROUND THE MONARCHY AND FOR THE MONARCHY."

B. THE POLITICAL CLASS. "THE POLITICAL CLASS... SEEMS TO ME NOT TO BE ADAPTING ITSELF TO THE TRUE NEEDS OF THE STATE. EVERYONE TALKS, PROCLAIMS, CONFERS, BUT EVIDENTLY THIS WILL CORRECT ITSELF PROGRESSIVELY. EVEN ALREADY YOU CAN NOTE A CHANGE IN TONE."

C. LEFT AND RIGHT. "THE LEFT INSISTS ON FIGHTING AGAINST A PAST THAT NO LONGER EXISTS AND A PART OF THE RIGHT ON CRYING OVER A PAST THAT WILL NOT RETURN"... "THESE PEOPLE DON'T REPRESENT MUCH OF ANYTHING. THE AVERAGE MASS OF THE SPANISH PEOPLE IS MODERATE. ALL THE POLLS SHOW THAT. IT WANTS THE EXPERIMENT TO TURN OUT WELL AND IT KNOWS WHAT'S AT STAKE."

D. WHAT'S AT STAKE. "TO ESTABLISH THE RULES OF THE GAME OF POLITICAL PLURALISM. ONE OF THE ROLES OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT IS PRECISELY TO PERMIT THIS TO REACH ITS CONCLUSION AND NOT TO IMPOSE ITS OWN WAYS."

E. CORTES OPPOSITION TO POLITICAL REFORM. "THERE WILL BE, IN FACT, THOSE WHO WILL BE AGAINST IT. THAT'S NORMAL. BUT THEY WILL BE A MINORITY BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT IS RIGHT AND BECAUSE I WILL CHOOSE, CAREFULLY, THE TIME AND THE PLACE. IT IS NECESSARY, ABOVE ALL, TO CONVINCE. THIS WILL NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT."

F. HIS GOVERNMENT. "I HAVE BEEN PRIME MINISTER FOR TWO AND A HALF MONTHS. SINCE THE BEGINNING. MY GOVERNMENT HAS NOT STOPPED OCCUPYING THE TERRITORY. WE RAPIDLY GRANTED AMNESTY, EVEN BROADER THAN WAS EXPECTED; WE HAVE SET EVERYONE TO TALKING WITH EVERYONE AND WE GOT THE CORTES TO APPROVE THE LAW ON PENAL CODE REFORM. THIS WEEK WE WILL ATTACK INFLATION, THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, AND WE WILL TAKE A SERIES OF MEASURES AGAINST THEM..."

G. CATALONIA, BASQUE COUNTRY, CANARY ISLANDS. "THESE ARE THREE DIFFERENT QUESTIONS. I WANT TO DE-DRAMATIZE THEM BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT DRAMATIC. DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THE KEY TO THE PROBLEM THERE IS A FORMULA. IT IS NECESSARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT WHAT IS ALREADY HAPPENING IN DAILY LIFE BE LEGALIZED BY LAW. THE UNITY OF SPAIN EXISTS AND EVENTS IN THESE THREE REGIONS WILL DEVELOP MORE EASILY THAN IS BELIEVED."

3. COMMENT: WE REPORT THESE STATEMENTS AS CHARACTERISTIC OF SUAREZ' PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN RECENT WEEKS. THE PROBLEMS ARE OF COURSE LARGER AND LESS TRACTABLE THAN SUAREZ PAINTS THEM, BUT HE IS A SELF-CONFIDENT LEADER, AND THE

POLITICAL REALITIES DEMAND A CONFIDENT STANCE BY THE GOS.
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